

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01

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ROME FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDIA EXPANSION PLANS

REF JIDDA 0281

1. EMBOFF HAS LEARNED THAT SAUDIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING FEBRUARXDMXW TO FINALIZE AUTHORIZATION OF PURCHASE OF TWO L-1011'S CURRENTLY IN HANDS OF TWA AT PALMDALE, FLORIDA.

2. THE L-1011'S WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO KANSAS CITY WHERE INITIAL 25 MODIFICATIONS WILL BE MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROMMONALITY WITH SAUDIA FLEET. COST OF MODIFICATIONS: \$1 MILLION PER PLANE.

3. L-1011'S ARE DUE TO JOINT SAUDIA FLEET ON MAY 27. SAUDIA WILL THEN HAVE FIVE L-1011'S AND IS NOW NEGOTIATING FOR THE LEASE OF THREE ADDITIONAL RB 211-22B ENGINES FROM ROLLS DARBY TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPANSION.

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4. SAUDIA WILL HAVE EIGHT FLIGHTS PER WEEK TO LONDON
HCZITH ALL L-1011 SERVICE.

5. REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED FORWARD FRG
FEBRUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 15. MEETING WILL FOCUS ON
FOLLOWING TOPICS.

(A) FLEET PLAN FOR 1977-78; (B) REPLACEMENT OF
SEVERAL KEY SAUDIA OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RETIRED.

6. SECOND TOPIC IS OF SIGNIFICANCE PRIMARILY BECAUSE
OF ISSUE OF SAUDIS VS EXPATRIATES. SAUDIS DESIRE TO FILL
VACANCY OF DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS WITH SAUDI
(CAPTAIN MATAR). TWA OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT
SUCH A STEP AT TPIS TIME.

7. EMBOFF FEELS BOARD MEETING WILL RESULT IN MAJOR IM-
PLICXTIONS FOR SAUDIA DEVELOPMENT OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.
FOR THIS REASON, VISIT BY REGIONAL AIR ATTACHE WOULD BE
TIMELY.

8. SUGGEST REA PLAN TO ARRIVE FRIDAY AND DEPART TUESDAY.
ADVISE SOONEST IF VISIT IMMINENT.
PORTER

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